



**COMMANDING GENERAL
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING**

Statement on Sexual Assault

1 August 2011



Sexual assault is a crime that is prejudicial to good order and discipline; it also damages morale and unit cohesion. Sexual assault will not be tolerated within 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Offenders will face prosecution and victims will be given the compassionate support and care they require.

Sexual assaults are criminal acts of violence and aggression involving a non-consensual act of a sexual nature used to affect power and control over the victim. Sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of age or gender. Incidents often occur following excessive alcohol consumption and often involve someone with whom the victim knows and works. It is important to note that if someone is sufficiently mentally incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol they are not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity.

I believe the complete and total eradication of sexual assaults can only be achieved with the help and courage of the individual Marine. On the battlefield we put our lives in danger to protect our fellow Marines. This same sort of protective behavior must be displayed in order to prevent sexual assaults. It takes strength and courage to step-up and remove a fellow Marine from a situation which could lead to a sexual assault. It takes strength and courage to step-up and protect a fellow Marine who may have become vulnerable to sexual assault. Our fellow Marines and Sailors are our most precious assets. It is our duty to protect each other from all harm, including this type of crime. Marines police their own ranks. They do not allow Marines to take advantage of others and do not allow Marines to become victims. It takes the greatest amount of strength and courage to report a fellow Marine who has committed a sexual assault. If you know of a sexual assault, it's your duty to report it immediately.

If you are a victim of sexual assault contact your unit's Uniformed Victim Advocate (UVA). The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing internet site contains a list of wing and group UVA contact numbers located at the following: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/1stairwing/Pages/sapr.aspx>

Strong leadership at the lowest level is a key to sexual assault prevention. Commanders must continuously educate, train and instill awareness in members of their command. Small unit leaders must continue an open dialog with their Marines on the issue that includes both prevention and response but with a clear focus on prevention.

Semper Fidelis,

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Commanding General
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